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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED / ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5) 09/297701
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US97/20004	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 5 November 1997	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 6 November 1996	
TITLE OF INVENTION Methods for Identifying Genes Essential to the Growth of an Organism			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Christine M DEBOUCK, Jeffrey L MOONEY			

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:


11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

US APPLICATION NO. (if known see 37 CFR 1.50) Unknown		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US97/20004		ATTORNEYS DOCKET NO. P50572	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Basic National Fee (37 C.F.R. 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):					
Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO\$930.00					
International Preliminary Examination Fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)\$720.00					
No International Preliminary Examination Fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))\$790.00					
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than o 20 o 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$0.00	
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total claims	22 - 20 =	2	2x \$22.00	\$44.00	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	0 x \$82.00	\$000.00	
Multiple dependent claims (if applicable)			0 + \$270.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$764.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$764.00	
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- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-2570 in the amount of **\$764.00** to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
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NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

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METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING GENES ESSENTIAL TO THE GROWTH
OF AN ORGANISM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to the use of high-density arrays or grids of genomic (or cDNA) libraries for the identification, sequencing and characterization of genes which are essential to the growth of an organism, and more specifically to a pathogen. The determination of these essential genes and the proteins encoded thereby is useful in the development of new therapies against such pathogens.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Identification, sequencing and characterization of genes is a major goal of modern scientific research. By identifying genes, determining their sequences and characterizing their biological function, it is possible to employ recombinant
15 technology to produce large quantities of valuable gene products, e.g. proteins and peptides. Additionally, knowledge of gene sequences can provide a key to diagnosis, prognosis and treatment in a variety of infectious diseases and disease states in plants and animals which are characterized by inappropriate expression and/or repression of selected genes or by the influence of external factors, e.g., carcinogens or teratogens,
20 on gene function.

 Methods have been described for the identification of certain novel gene sequences, referred to as Expressed Sequence Tags (EST). Adams *et al.*, *Science*, 1991, 252:1651-1656. A variety of techniques have also been described for identifying particular gene sequences on the basis of their gene products. For
25 example, see International Patent Application No. WO91/07087, published May 30, 1991. In addition, methods have been described for the amplification of desired sequences. For example, see International Patent Application No. WO91/17271, published November 14, 1991.

 Genes which are essential for the growth of an organism, however, have been
30 difficult to identify in such a manner as to be easily recovered for future analysis. The most common methodology currently employed to identify essential genes is a multi-

step process involving the generation of a conditionally lethal mutant library followed by the screening of duplicate members under the appropriate permissive and non-permissive conditions. Candidate mutants are then transformed with a second, genomic library and the desired genes isolated by complementation of the mutant phenotype. The complementing plasmid is recovered, subcloned, and then retested. However, this procedure comprises multiple subcloning steps to identify and recover the desired genes thus making it both labor intensive and time consuming.

Accordingly, there exists a need for a more efficient method of identifying genes essential to the growth of an organism.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention provides a method of identifying a gene or genes which are essential to the growth of an organism through the use of high density arrays or grids of genomic libraries. The method involves preparing a genomic library of a selected organism and providing a plurality of identical grids, each grid comprising a surface on which is immobilized at predefined regions on said surface a plurality of defined materials derived from the genomic library. The selected organism is then mutagenized, preferably by insertional mutagenesis, and grown in a test culture under a selected set of defined conditions. A control culture comprising the non-mutagenized selected organism is also grown under the same set of defined conditions. Surviving cells from the cultures are harvested and DNA from harvested cells of the mutagenized organism (test culture) and RNA, or DNA, from harvested cells of the non-mutagenized organism (control culture) are extracted and isolated. Labeled polynucleotide probes from the isolated DNA of the test culture and labeled polynucleotide probes from the isolated RNA (or DNA) of the control culture are then generated and hybridized to identical grids to produce a test hybridization pattern and a control hybridization pattern, respectively. Hybridization patterns on the grids are then compared to identify genes essential for growth of the selected organism. Essentiality of the identified gene for growth of the selected organism is then confirmed.

The method of the present invention may further comprise growing additional test cultures comprising the mutagenized organism and control cultures comprising the non-mutagenized organism under different sets of defined conditions. Labeled probes from the isolated DNA and RNA from these additional cultures are generated in the same fashion as previously described to produce test and control hybridization patterns for cultures grown under the different sets of defined conditions. Genes essential to the growth of the selected organism are then identified by comparing the hybridization patterns generated by mutagenized and non-mutagenized organisms grown under each of the different sets of defined conditions.

10 An additional aspect of the invention provides an isolated gene which is essential to the growth of an organism and is identified by one of the above methods.

Yet another aspect of the invention is an isolated protein produced by expression of the gene sequence identified above. Such proteins are useful in the development of therapeutic and diagnostic compositions, or as targets for drug development.

15 Yet another aspect of the invention is to identify broad spectrum antibiotics or antifungals which inhibit the expression of these essential genes.

In a related aspect, the present invention provides a method to identify conditionally lethal mutant genes of a selected organism by complementation with a non-mutagenized genomic library of the same organism. The method involves preparing a genomic library in either an integration vector, or in an expression vector, and providing a grid comprising a surface on which is immobilized at predefined regions on said surface a plurality of defined materials derived from the genomic library. The selected organism is then mutagenized, preferably by chemically induced point mutations, and grown (in a test culture) under permissive and non-permissive conditions to identify mutagenized organisms that contain conditionally lethal mutant genes. Organisms that contain conditionally lethal mutant genes are transformed with the prepared (i.e., non-mutagenized) genomic library and the transformed organisms, or cells, are grown under the same non-permissive conditions used to identify mutagenized organisms that contain the conditionally lethal mutant genes. Surviving cells are harvested and DNA is extracted and isolated. Labeled polynucleotide probes

from the isolated DNA are then generated and hybridized to the grid to identify genes essential for growth of the selected organism.

Other objects, features, advantages and aspects of the present invention will become apparent to those of skill in the art from the following description. It should be understood, however, that the following description and the specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. Various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the disclosed invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from reading the following description and from reading the other parts of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The biochemical basis of many bacterial resistance mechanisms to antibiotics is now known. These mechanisms alone, or in concert, are responsible for the escalating problem of antibiotic resistance seen both in hospital and community acquired infection. The principle approach by researchers to overcome these problems has been to seek incremental improvements in existing drugs. Although these approaches contribute somewhat to the fight against infection by such resistant pathogens, new approaches are needed.

Methods have now been developed for identifying genes and gene products essential to the survival of an organism. Genes and gene products identified by these methods are useful as molecular targets for drug discovery. The methods of the present invention are useful in determining the effect of the total absence of a gene or gene product on the survival of an organism.

I. Definitions

Several words and phrases used throughout this specification are defined as follows:

As used herein, the term "gene" refers to the genomic nucleotide sequence from which a cDNA sequence is derived. The term gene classically refers to the genomic sequence, which upon processing, can produce different cDNAs, e.g., by

splicing events. However, for ease of reading, any full-length counterpart cDNA sequence will also be referred to by shorthand herein as gene.

By "gene product" it is meant any polypeptide sequence encoded by a gene. The term "genomic library" is meant to include, but is not limited to, plasmid libraries, PCR products from genomic libraries, cDNA libraries and known sequences. Methods for the construction of such libraries are well known by those skilled in the art. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a genomic library is constructed in a suicide vector. It is also preferred that the constructed library be adjusted to minimize the number of complete genes present in a single genomic insert to approximately one gene. Techniques for this adjustment are well known to the skilled artisan.

"Isolated" means altered "by the hand of man" from its natural state; i.e., that, if it occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For example, a naturally occurring polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living animal in its natural state is not "isolated," but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is "isolated", as the term is employed herein. For example, with respect to polynucleotides, the term isolated means that it is separated from the chromosome and cell in which it naturally occurs.

By "organism" it is meant any single cell organism. Preferably this includes, but is not limited to, bacterium (including both gram negative and gram positive species), viruses and lower eukaryotic cells such as fungi, yeast, molds and simple multicellular organisms. Preferably, the organism is a pathogen.

The term "pathogen" is defined herein as any organism which is capable of infecting an animal or plant and replicating its nucleic acid sequences in the cells or tissue of that animal or plant. Such a pathogen is generally associated with a disease condition in the infected animal or plant. Such pathogens may include, but are not limited to, viruses, which replicate intra- or extra-cellularly, or other organisms such as bacteria, fungi or molds, which generally infect tissues or the blood. Certain pathogens are known to exist in sequential and distinguishable stages of development, e.g., latent stages, infective stages, and stages which cause symptomatic diseases. In

these different states, the pathogen is anticipated to rely upon different genes as essential for survival or for pathogenicity.

As used herein, the term "solid support" refers to any known substrate which is useful for the immobilization of a plurality of defined materials derived from a genomic library by any available method to enable detectable hybridization of the immobilized polynucleotide sequences with other polynucleotides in the sample. Among a number of available solid supports, one desirable example is the supports described in International Patent Application No. WO91/07087, published May 30, 1991. Examples of other useful supports include, but are not limited to, nitrocellulose, nylon, glass, silica and Pall BIODYNE C. It is also anticipated that improvements yet to be made to conventional solid supports may also be employed in this invention.

The term "grid" means any generally two-dimensional structure on a solid support to which the defined materials of a genomic library are attached or immobilized.

As used herein, the term "predefined region" refers to a localized area on a surface of a solid support on which is immobilized one or multiple copies of a particular clone and which enables hybridization of that clone at the position, if hybridization of that clone to a sample polynucleotide occurs.

By "immobilized", it is meant to refer to the attachment of the genes to the solid support. Means of immobilization are known and conventional to those of skill in the art, and may depend on the type of support being used.

II. Compositions of the Invention

The present invention is based upon the use of high density arrays or grids of genomic libraries as a means for rapidly identifying genes essential for the growth of an organism.

A. Preparation of genomic libraries

For this analysis a random genomic library for the target organism is prepared. The genomic DNA is isolated using standard procedures for molecular biology such as

those disclosed by Sambrook *et al.*, MOLECULAR CLONING, A LABORATORY MANUAL, 2nd Ed.; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989. The genomic library is then constructed in accordance with procedures described by Fleischmann *et al.* *Science*, 1995, 269:496-512. For the purposes of the

5 present invention, a genomic library can comprise a plasmid library, PCR products from a genomic library, or known sequences. In one embodiment, a suicide vector is used for preparation of the genomic library. Examples of suicide vectors which may be used in the present invention are well known in the art. See, for example, Booker *et al.* *Lett. Appl. Microbiol.* 1995 21:292-297; Steinmeitz, M. and Richter, R. *Gene*, 1994,

10 142:79-83; Yu *et al.* *J. Bacteriol.* 1994 176:3627-34; and Quandt, J. and Hynes, M.F. *Gene*, 1993, 127:15-21. In a preferred embodiment, a suicide vector containing the broad host range erythromycin (Erm) gene can be prepared in a commercially available plasmid such as pBluescript (pBS; Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The Erm gene is isolated as a TaqI restriction fragment from the vector pE194 (Hourinouchi, S. and

15 Weisbaum, B. J. *Bacteriology* 1982, 150:804-812). The Erm containing fragment is ligated directly into NaeI digested, CIP-treated pBS and transformed into HB101 cells. Transformants are screened by PCR to determine the presence of the Erm gene. Using this vector, two Erm positive isolates were confirmed by sequence analysis and designated pJMermA4 and pJMermD2. For library construction, genomic inserts are

20 placed into the unique SmaI site present in the polylinker region. It is also preferred that the constructed library be adjusted to minimize the number of complete genes present in a single genomic insert. Techniques for making this adjustment to the library are well known to those skilled in the art.

25 *B. Preparation of Grid*

A plurality of materials derived from the genomic library are gridded onto a surface of a solid support at predefined locations or regions, preferably at 6X coverage. By "plurality of materials derived from the genomic library" it is meant to include, but is not limited to, bacterium containing individual clones spotted onto and

30 grown on a surface of the solid support at predefined locations or regions; or plasmid clones isolated from said library, PCR products derived from the inserts from the

plasmid clones, or oligonucleotides derived from sequencing of the plasmid clones, which are immobilized to the surface of the solid support at predefined locations or regions.

Numerous conventional methods are employed for immobilizing these materials to surfaces of a variety of solid supports. See, e.g., Affinity Techniques, 5 Enzyme Purification: Part P, Methods in Enzymology, Vol. 34, ed. W.B. Jakoby, M. Wilcheck, Acad. Press, NY (1971); Immobilized Biochemicals and Affinity Chromatography, Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, Vol. 42, ed. R. Dunlap, Plenum Press, NY (1974); U.S. Patent 4,762,881; U.S. Patent No. 10 4,542,102; European Patent Publication No. 391,608 (October 10, 1990); or U.S. Patent No. 4,992,127 (November 21, 1989).

One desirable method for attaching these materials to a solid support is described in International Application No. PCT/US90/06607 (published May 30, 1991). Briefly, this method involves forming predefined regions on a surface of a 15 solid support, where the predefined regions are capable of immobilizing the materials. The method makes use of binding substrates attached to the surface which enable selective activation of the predefined regions. Upon activation, these binding substances become capable of binding and immobilizing the materials derived from the genomic library.

20 Any of the known solid substrates suitable for binding nucleotide sequences at predefined regions on the surface thereof for hybridization and methods for attaching nucleotide sequences thereto may be employed by one of skill in the art according to the invention. Similarly, known conventional methods for making hybridization of the immobilized materials detectable, e.g., fluorescence, radioactivity, photoactivation, 25 biotinylation, energy transfer, solid state circuitry, and the like may be used in this invention.

C. Preparation and Growth of Mutagenized Organism

The organism of interest is mutagenized by transfection with either a randomly 30 integrating transposon or similar insertional or transposable elements of known

sequence (e.g., Tn, IS, phage Mu, Ty element) or with a constructed suicide vector and allowed to grow under a selected set of defined conditions.

III. The Methods of the Invention

5 A. Identification of Genes

The present invention employs the compositions described above in methods for identifying genes which are essential to the growth of an organism. These methods may be employed to detect such genes, regardless of the state of knowledge about the function of the gene.

10 In one embodiment, a gene or genes which are essential to the growth of a selected organism are identified through the use of two or more identical high density arrays or grids of genomic libraries prepared from the selected organism. For this analysis, at least two identical high density grids or arrays are prepared. Each grid is prepared from a random genomic library for a selected organism, preferably in a
15 suicide vector. A plurality of defined materials derived from the genomic library are then gridded onto a solid support, preferably at 6X coverage. The insert size of this library is adjusted to minimize the number of complete genes that might be present in a single insert. In a preferred embodiment, the target insert size is one complete gene. For bacteria, the average length of a complete gene is approximately 1 kb.

20 The selected organism is mutagenized by transfection with either a randomly integrating transposon or similar insertional or transposable element of known sequence, such as Tn, IS, Ty element or phage Mu, or with the constructed suicide vector. The mutagenized selected organism is then cultured under a selected set of defined *in vitro* or *in vivo* conditions to produce a test culture. In addition, a non-
25 mutagenized selected organism is also cultured under the same set of defined conditions to produce a control culture. By "defined conditions" it is meant, but is not limited to, standard *in vitro* culture conditions recognized as normal (i.e., non-pathogenic) for a selected organism, as well as *in vitro* conditions which reflect or mimic *in vivo* pathogenic settings (conditions) such as heat shock, auxotrophic,
30 osmotic shock, antibiotic or drug selection/addition, varied carbon sources, and aerobic or anaerobic conditions, and *in vivo*, pathogenic conditions. Preferably, such

conditions are predetermined to allow maximum growth of the non-mutagenized organism. The surviving cells are then harvested. Harvesting can be performed during various growth stages of the cells to ascertain the essentiality of a particular gene during different stages of growth. For example, harvesting can be performed during early logarithmic growth, late logarithmic growth, stationary phase growth or late stationary growth. RNA (or DNA) is then extracted and isolated from the harvested non-mutagenized cells of the control culture, while DNA is extracted and isolated from the mutagenized cells of the test culture using standard methodologies well known to those skilled in the art.

RNA (or DNA) extracted from the non-mutagenized cells of the control culture and DNA extracted from the mutagenized cells of the test culture are then used to generate labeled probes. The extracted, isolated DNA of the test culture serves as templates in primer extension reactions using oligonucleotide primers directed against a transposon/integrated vector sequence and which extends into the neighboring (i.e., flanking) nucleic acid sequence of the (genomic) DNA. Such primers will vary depending upon the mutagenesis/vector system employed. For example, in one embodiment, where the libraries constructed in the pJMermA4 or pJMermD2 vectors are used for both gridding and mutagenesis, primers designated against sequences which flank the SmaI cloning site are used. Examples of such primers include, but are not limited to:

5'-AATTAACCCTCACTAAAGGGAACA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1);

5'-TGTTCCCTTTAGTGAGGGTTAATT-3' (SEQ ID NO:2);

5'-GTAATACGACTCACGGAGGGGCGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:3); and

5'-ACGCCCCCTCCGTGAGTCGTATTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

The extension reactions are performed using detectably labeled, i.e. radio- or fluorescent dye-labeled or biotinylated, nucleotides and controlled so that the extension products average approximately 200 base pairs (bp) in length. A number of methods exist for generating the primer extension products. In one embodiment, primer extension reactions are performed under the following conditions: A sample containing 15 pmoles of appropriate primer or primers, 5 pmoles extracted DNA, 30 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 50 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM dATP, 0.1 mM ³²P-dCTP,

0.1 mM dGTP, 0.1 mM dTTP, 0.25 mM ddATP, 0.25 mM ddCTP, 0.25 mM ddGTP and water to 135 μ l is prepared. This sample is then incubated at 75°C for 15 minutes; 50°C for 30 minutes and 37°C for 15 minutes. Klenow polymerase (75 units in a total volume of 15 μ l) is then added and the sample is incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C. EDTA to 20 mM is added. The sample is then extracted 1 time each with phenol, chloroform and isoamyl alcohol, followed by a second extraction with chloroform and isoamyl alcohol. The product is then precipitated with ethanol.

When RNA (or DNA) from the non-mutagenized organism is used to generate the probes, isolated RNA (or DNA) is labeled according to standard methods using random primers, preferably hexamers, and reverse transcriptase. Such methods are routinely performed by those skilled in the art.

These labeled products are then used as hybridization probes against the identical high density grids. Labeled probes prepared from DNA extracted from mutagenized cells of the test culture are hybridized to one identical grid, while labeled probes from the RNA extracted from the non-mutagenized cells of the control culture are hybridized to a second identical grid. The generated test hybridization patterns and control hybridization patterns are then compared. Genes essential for the growth of the selected organism are identified by determining differences at the predefined regions of the grids between the test hybridization pattern and the control hybridization pattern grown under the selected set of defined conditions.

Alternatively, additional test cultures comprising the mutagenized selected organism and control cultures comprising the non-mutagenized selected organism are grown under different sets of defined *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions. Hybridization patterns for labeled polynucleotide probes prepared from DNA of the additional test cultures and RNA of the additional control cultures are then generated in accordance with procedures described herein. Genes essential to the growth of the organism are then identified by comparing the hybridization patterns of the test and control cultures for each set of defined conditions with each other. In one embodiment, genes essential to the growth of the organism will be those common to all of the hybridization patterns for all the cells. In another embodiment, genes essential for

growth of a selected organism will hybridize under one set of growth conditions and will not hybridize under a different set of growth conditions.

In another embodiment, a pool of conditionally lethal mutants of the organism can be generated and transformed with a second (genomic) library constructed in a transposon/integration based vector. Transformants are reselected under the original conditionally lethal conditions and the rescued, surviving isolates used for probe generation and hybridization analysis as described above. For example, a temperature sensitive (ts) mutant library is prepared according to standard procedures and screened under permissive vs. non-permissive conditions to identify conditionally lethal mutants. The identified conditionally lethal ts mutants are pooled and transformed with a second, genomic library constructed in a transposon/integration based vector containing both a conditional and a selectable marker system. Examples of vectors for this second library include, but are not limited to, pMAK705 (Bloomfield et al. *Mol. Microbiol.* 1991 5:1447-1457) and pG+host5 (Biswas et al. *J. Bacteriol.* 1993, 175:3628-3635). The resulting transformants are retested or grown under the original temperature selection for lethality/essentiality. Survivors represent isolates containing integrated vector plus complementing genomic sequences. DNA from these survivors is then isolated and probes are generated as described in the preceding paragraphs, whereby hybridizing clones identify essential genes of interest.

In yet another embodiment, a conditionally lethal mutant library is prepared according to standard procedures, is constructed in an expression vector, and transformed with a selectable, genomic library. The genomic library is constructed using standard molecular biology techniques such that expression of the inserted genomic DNA is under control of vector-located promoter sequences, and preferably contains selectable and conditional markers. Examples of vectors containing inducible promoter systems include, but are not limited to, pFL10 (Lopez de Felipe et al. *FEMS Microbiol. Lett.* 1994, 122: 289-295) and pUB110 (Zyprian, E. and Matzura, H. *DNA* 1986, 5:219-225). In this embodiment, temperature sensitive lethal mutants are screened under temperature sensitive selection and under induction conditions for the vector-located promoter sequences. Surviving isolates represent clones where

transcription of the exogenous plasmid insert complements the mutant phenotype. Probes are generated against the plasmid inserts and hybridized against the grids.

Essentiality of the gene to the organism is confirmed by inactivating the identified gene in the selected organism, preferably using a single gene disruption
5 procedure such as a knock out experiment, and culturing the selected organism under the same defined conditions.

Clones identified by the methods of the instant invention can be used directly for sequence analysis and for knockout experiments to confirm their essentiality to the growth of the organism. Alternatively, a gene sequence from the identified clone can
10 be subcloned into a suitable vector for knockout experiments as is common in the art. Sequence analysis is performed using standard methodologies well known to those skilled in the art. Initial sequencing may be performed using the M13 universal forward and universal reverse sequencing primers which flank the multiple cloning site of the vector. The resulting sequences are analyzed using conventional computer
15 programs. Results of said analysis are used in determining the potential usefulness of the individual clones as antimicrobial targets.

For knockout experiments, plasmid DNA from the identified isolates is purified and transformed in a non-mutagenized organism using standard molecular biology techniques. The transformed cells are grown under antibiotic selection for the
20 vector sequence. Surviving cells represent site-specific insertional events into genes which are not essential for growth since knockout of an essential gene would result in no viable transformants. DNA is isolated from the surviving cells and used as a template to generate probes in accordance with previously described procedures and the grids reprobed for analysis. Additional gene knockout experiments can be
25 performed in accordance with procedures described by, for example, Guiterrez et al. *J. Bacteriol.* 1996 178:4166-4175. Gene knockout experiments thus provide information on the effect of the total absence of the gene product.

B. Other Methods of the Invention

30 As is obvious to one of skill in the art upon reading this disclosure, the compositions and methods of the invention may also be used for other similar

purposes. For example, in one embodiment, this method can be used to monitor the effect of potential drugs on essential gene expression, both in laboratories and during clinical trials with animals, especially humans. Because the method can be readily adapted by altering growth conditions or the stage at which the cells are harvested, it
5 can essentially be employed to identify essential genes of any organism, at any stage of development, and under the influence of any factor which can affect gene expression.

IV. The Genes and Proteins Identified

Application of the compositions and methods of this invention as above
10 described also provides other compositions, such as any isolated gene sequence which is essential to the growth of an organism. Another embodiment of this invention is any isolated pathogen gene sequence found to be essential to the survival of the pathogen in a host. Similarly, an embodiment of the invention is any gene sequence identified by the methods described therein.

15 These gene sequences may be employed in conventional methods to produce isolated proteins encoded thereby. To produce a protein of this invention, the DNA sequences of a desired gene invention or portions thereof identified by use of the methods of this invention are inserted into a suitable expression system. In a preferred embodiment, a recombinant molecule or vector is constructed in which the
20 polynucleotide sequence encoding the protein is operably linked to a heterologous expression control sequence permitting expression of the human protein. Numerous types of appropriate expression vectors and host cell systems are known in the art for mammalian (including human), insect, yeast, fungal and bacterial expression.

The transfection of these vectors into appropriate host cells, whether
25 mammalian, bacterial, fungal or insect, or into appropriate viruses, results in expression of the selected proteins. Suitable host cells, cell lines for transfection and viruses, as well as methods for construction and transfection of such host cells and viruses are well-known. Suitable methods for transfection, culture, amplification, screening and product production and purification are also known in the art.

30 In one embodiment, the essential genes and proteins encoded thereby which have been identified by this invention can be employed as diagnostic compositions

useful in the diagnosis of a disease or infection by conventional diagnostic assays. For example, a diagnostic reagent can be developed which detectably targets a gene sequence or protein of this invention in a biological sample of an animal. Such a reagent may be a complementary nucleotide sequence, an antibody (monoclonal, 5 recombinant or polyclonal), or a chemically derived agonist or antagonist. Alternatively, the essential genes of this invention and proteins encoded thereby, fragments of the same, or complementary sequences thereto, may themselves be used as diagnostic reagents. These reagents may optionally be detectably labeled, for example, with a radioisotope or colorimetric enzyme. Selection of an appropriate 10 diagnostic assay format and detection system is within the skill of the art and may readily be chosen without requiring additional explanation by resort to the wealth of art in the diagnostic area.

Additionally, genes and proteins identified according to this invention may be used therapeutically. For example, genes identified as essential in accordance with this 15 method and proteins encoded thereby may serve as targets for the screening and development of natural or synthetic chemical compounds which have utility as therapeutic drugs for the treatment of disease states associated with the organism. As an example, a compound capable of binding to a protein encoded by an essential gene thus preventing its biological activity may be useful as a drug component preventing 20 diseases or disorders resulting from the growth of a particular organism. Alternatively, compounds which inhibit expression of an essential gene are also believed to be useful therapeutically. In addition, compounds which enhance the expression of genes essential to the growth of an organism may also be used to promote the growth of a particular organism.

25 Conventional assays and techniques may be used for screening and development of such drugs. For example, a method for identifying compounds which specifically bind to or inhibit proteins encoded by these gene sequences can include simply the steps of contacting a selected protein or gene product with a test compound to permit binding of the test compound to the protein; and determining the 30 amount of test compound, if any, which is bound to the protein. Such a method may involve the incubation of the test compound and the protein immobilized on a solid

support. Still other conventional methods of drug screening can involve employing a suitable computer program to determine compounds having similar or complementary structure to that of the gene product or portions thereof and screening those compounds for competitive binding to the protein. Identified compounds may be
5 incorporated into an appropriate therapeutic formulation, alone or in combination with other active ingredients. Methods of formulating therapeutic compositions, as well as suitable pharmaceutical carriers, and the like are well known to those of skill in the art.

Accordingly, through use of such methods, the present invention is believed to
10 provide compounds capable of interacting with these genes, or encoded proteins or fragments thereof, and either enhancing or decreasing the biological activity, as desired. Thus, these compounds are also encompassed by this invention.

Numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are included in the above-identified specification and are expected to be obvious to one of skill in the
15 art. Such modifications and alterations to the compositions and processes of the present invention are believed to be encompassed in the scope of the claims appended hereto.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

- (i) APPLICANT: SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION
- (ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: Methods for Identifying Genes
Essential to the Growth of an Organism
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: SmithKline Beecham Corporation
 - (B) STREET: 709 Swedeland Road
 - (C) CITY: King of Prussia
 - (D) STATE: PA
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 19046
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: Unknown
 - (B) FILING DATE:
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/030,159
 - (B) FILING DATE: 06-NOV-1996
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Gimmi, Edward R
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 38,891
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: P50572

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

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- (C) TELEX: ,

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

AATTAACCCT CACTAAAGGG AACAA

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

TGTTCCCTTT AGTGAGGGTT AATT

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

GTAATACGAC TCACGGAGGG GCGA

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

ACGCCCCCTCC GTGAGTCGTA TTAG

24

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of identifying genes essential to growth of a selected organism comprising:
 - (a) preparing a genomic library of a selected organism;
 - (b) providing a plurality of identical grids, each grid comprising a surface on which is immobilized at predefined regions on said surface a plurality of defined materials derived from the genomic library;
 - (c) mutagenizing the selected organism;
 - (d) growing a test culture comprising mutagenized selected organism and a control culture comprising non-mutagenized selected organism under a set of defined conditions;
 - (e) harvesting surviving cells from the cultures;
 - (f) extracting and isolating DNA from harvested cells of the test culture;
 - (g) extracting and isolating RNA or DNA from harvested cells of the control culture;
 - (h) generating labeled polynucleotide probes from the isolated DNA of the test culture;
 - (i) generating labeled polynucleotide probes from the isolated RNA or DNA of the control culture;
 - (j) hybridizing the labeled probes generated from the isolated DNA of the test culture to a first identical grid to produce a test hybridization pattern;
 - (k) hybridizing the labeled probes generated from the isolated RNA or DNA of the control culture to a second identical grid to produce a control hybridization pattern;
 - (l) comparing the hybridization patterns to identify genes essential for growth of the selected organism; and
 - (m) confirming that said identified gene is essential for growth of the selected organism.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein essential genes are identified in step (l) by determining differences between the test hybridization pattern and the control hybridization pattern.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of defined conditions of step (d) comprises standard non-pathogenic *in vitro* culture conditions for the selected organism.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of defined conditions of step (d) comprises *in vitro* conditions which reflect or mimic *in vivo*, pathogenic settings such as aerobic or anaerobic conditions, auxotrophic, heat-shock, osmotic-shock, addition or presence of antibiotics or drugs, carbon source variations, and *in vivo* pathogenic conditions.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the harvesting of surviving cells of step (e) is performed during early logarithmic growth.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the harvesting of surviving cells of step (e) is performed during late logarithmic growth.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the harvesting of surviving cells of step (e) is performed during stationary phase growth.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the harvesting of surviving cells of step (e) is performed during late stationary phase growth.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
step (d) further comprises growing additional test and control cultures under a different set of defined conditions; and
step (l) comprises comparing test and control hybridization patterns from the cells grown under the different sets of defined conditions.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein genes essential to the selected organism are identified by determining identical hybridization patterns for all of the cells grown under the different sets of defined conditions.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein genes essential to the selected organism are identified by determining differences between the test and control hybridization patterns for cells grown under the different sets of defined conditions.

12. A method of identifying genes essential to growth of a selected organism by identifying conditionally lethal mutant genes, which comprises:

(a) preparing a genomic library of a selected organism: (i) in an integration vector; or (ii) in an expression vector;

(b) providing a grid comprising a surface on which is immobilized at predefined regions on said surface a plurality of defined materials derived from the genomic library;

(c) mutagenizing the selected organism;

(d) growing the mutagenized organism under permissive and non-permissive conditions to identify mutagenized organisms containing conditionally lethal mutant genes;

(e) transforming such organisms containing said conditionally lethal mutant genes with the genomic library of step (a);

(f) growing the transformed cells under the same non-permissive conditions as step (d) to identify transformed cells in which conditionally lethal mutant genes have been complemented;

(g) harvesting surviving cells;

(h) extracting and isolating DNA from the harvested cells;

(i) generating labeled polynucleotide probes from the isolated DNA;

(j) hybridizing the labeled probes generated from the isolated DNA to a grid, whereby such probes that hybridize to the grid identify genes essential for growth of the selected organism.

13. An isolated gene sequence which is essential to growth of a selected organism which is identified by the method of claim 1.
14. An isolated protein produced by expression of a gene sequence of claim 13.
15. A therapeutic compound capable of modulating expression of the gene sequence of claim 13 for use in the treatment of a disease associated with growth of an organism.
16. A therapeutic compound capable of modulating activity of a protein of claim 14 for use in the treatment of a disease associated with growth of an organism.
17. A diagnostic composition useful for the diagnosis of a disease or infection comprising a reagent capable of detectably targeting a gene sequence of claim 13.
18. An isolated gene sequence which is essential to growth of a selected organism which is identified by the method of claim 12.
19. An isolated protein produced by expression of a gene sequence of claim 18.
20. A therapeutic compound capable of modulating expression of the gene sequence of claim 18 for use in the treatment of a disease associated with growth of an organism.
21. A therapeutic compound capable of modulating activity of a protein of claim 19 for use in the treatment of a disease associated with growth of an organism.

22. A diagnostic composition useful for the diagnosis of a disease or infection comprising a reagent capable of detectably targeting a gene sequence of claim 18.

Docket No.: P50572

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"Methods for Identifying Genes Essential to the Growth of an Organism"

the specification of which (check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on **5 November 1997** as Serial No. **PCT/US97/20004**
and was amended on (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number	Filing Date
<u>60/030,159</u>	<u>6 November 1996</u>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Serial No. _____ Filing Date _____ Status _____

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to that Customer Number:

Customer Number 20462

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to Edward R Gimmi, SmithKline Beecham Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property-U.S., UW2220, P.O. Box 1539, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-0939, whose telephone number is 610-270-4478.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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